

comprehensive policy, is not the complete answer to the risk of germ bio-warfare.

In our bill, we also provide substantial additional funds, over \$1 billion to the States and local communities, to improve the public health infrastructure. If something happens to someone's daughter and/or son and they suspect bioterrorism, we call on the public health infrastructure. What we need to do is have them prepared to receive that phone call and to respond in an effective way, and we provide the funds to make sure they are prepared to receive that phone call.

In our bill, we look at revitalizing the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's training initiatives. We look at response capabilities. We look at epidemiologic capacity.

We do not disturb the Federal funding established under the Public Health Threats and Emergencies Act that goes into the core facility laboratories, the public health capacities. In fact, we broaden the funding streams and increase the authorization for these capacity-building activities.

Not only will these additional funds assist us in the event of another biological attack, but the strengthening of the public health infrastructure means that we will also be able to respond to other infectious diseases as well. No matter what infectious disease it is, whether it is a result of a terrorist attack or a natural-occurring disease, we need the same response—quick diagnosis, high surveillance, good communication, and quick treatment.

In our bill, there is also a section on food safety protections, which I hope my colleagues will examine. My number one priority is to ensure that we address all of the issues laid out in the bill because the bill focuses on the entire system required to respond to any future bioterrorist attack—a system dependent upon the public health infrastructure.

I close simply by saying we have made tremendous progress. Our colleagues have spent a lot of time looking at the issues in putting together this bill. I encourage them, once again, to look at what is in this bill and understand the comprehensive framework of prevention, preparedness, and consequence management as we move forward. The gaps have been defined in the public health infrastructure. Now is the time to respond. The Bioterrorism Preparedness Act gives that framework. I encourage my colleagues to support it when it comes to the floor.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DASCHLE. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST— H.R. 1140

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I announced this morning we would attempt to move to proceed to the railroad retirement bill. In consultation with our Republican colleagues, I am prepared to do that at this time.

I ask unanimous consent that the Finance Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 1140, the Railroad Retirement Act, and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration under the following limitation: that the only amendment in order be a substitute amendment offered by the chairman of the Finance Committee; and following the disposition of the amendment, the bill be read the third time, and the Senate vote on passage, with no intervening action or debate.

Mr. GRAMM. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. DASCHLE. In light of this objection, I ask unanimous consent that the Finance Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 1140, and that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

Mr. GRAMM. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

#### COMPREHENSIVE RETIREMENT SECURITY AND PENSION REFORM ACT OF 2001—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. DASCHLE. In light of this objection, I then ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 69, H.R. 10.

Mr. GRAMM. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. DASCHLE. In light of the objection, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 69, H.R. 10, and I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close the debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 69, H.R. 10, an act to provide for pension reform and for other purposes:

Paul Wellstone, Richard Durbin, Byron Dorgan, Harry Reid, Jon Corzine, Hillary Clinton, Blanche Lincoln, Thomas Carper, Patrick Leahy, Tom Harkin, Benjamin Nelson, Mary Landrieu, Bill Nelson, Ron Wyden, Charles Schumer, Bob Graham, Barbara Mikulski.

Mr. DASCHLE. I ask unanimous consent the motion be considered as read.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DASCHLE. I will be brief I know my colleagues may wish to speak on this issue. This bill passed with an overwhelming 384 votes in the House. There is very, very strong bipartisan support in the Senate; 74 of our colleagues have cosponsored the bill, including a majority in both the Democratic and Republican caucuses. All the rail unions are united behind this bill, and it is supported by the entire railroad industry. It represents the first time in 25 years that labor, management and retirees have agreed on a set of changes to the system.

The reason is pretty simple. Most Members recognize we want to give railroad retirees the same opportunity as other retirees in the private sector, the opportunity to maximize their investment opportunities for retirement purposes. This bill would simply give them as many different options as we already provide to others in the private sector.

As a result of increased returns from these investments, it would provide enhanced benefits for railroad retirees and reduce retirement taxes for railroad companies. Among other things, it would expand benefits for surviving spouses, provide a retiree health insurance plan and reduce the vesting requirement to five years. These are important changes that should be made.

Enactment of this bill is long overdue. It is a good bill. It deserves our support. I am disappointed we are not able to move to it this afternoon. I will schedule a cloture vote on Thursday. We will do all we can to ensure that the legislation is considered and passed. It deserves our support, as it was given support in the House. We will do all we can to see that happens.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CARPER). The Senator from Texas.

Mr. GRAMM. Mr. President, in the 24 years I have served in Congress, I have seen many ideas debated; some of them good, some of them bad. I guess we are all prone, on the spur of the moment, to overstate things, but I think I can say without any fear of contradiction that of all the bills I have ever seen on which cloture has been filed, this comes closest to simply being an overt effort by two established and powerful special interests to literally pilfer the retirement fund that is available for railroad retirees, and the backing for that retirement fund.

Part of our problem in debating a bill such as this is that there is a natural tendency in a partisan body when, in this case railroads and railroad unions get together, everybody sees this as an opportunity to jump on the bandwagon. I don't know that I would state it as any first law of political behavior, but normally when business and labor get together on something, it is generally an effort to reach deeply into the pockets of the American taxpayer. That is what the provision before us is, in reality.